Meachum, on Middle East, has 'big mouth'

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Roy Meachum, renowned expert on the Middle East in particular, national and international affairs and all other things great and small (most often the latter) as he so often reminds us, has once again displayed his remarkable sense of timing: He knows the very moment to open his big mouth to accommodate his own feet and those of his Muslim friends.

In his column marking the opening of the Madrid preliminaries to what some hope against reason will lead to peace in that troubled area, he pontificated, "Let us abolish the notion that millions and millions of Muslims stand ready to demolish the Jewish state."

That very day, in Iran, which the day before had offered its army for an Arab attack on Israel, in the words of the Reuters dispatch, "Iranian radical Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who helped create the anti-Western, fundamentalist underground in Lebanon, told the Iranian legislature in Teheran, 'All participants in the Madrid conference are enemies of Islam and must face the death sentence. It is the duty of the world's Muslims to carry that out.' "

Not to be outdone, Iraq had been calling for military attacks on Israel.

"Millions and millions of Muslims" do not want to "demolish the Jewish state," Meachum says, without noting that demolishing the Jewish state remains in the PLO's charter; yet either of these Muslim states has a Muslim population much, much greater than that of all the other states in the area combined, Israeli included.

Not that there are not "millions and millions of Muslims" in these other states who also want Israel "demolished."

Including Israelis in what Meachum referred to as "those quarrelsome people" he says they "raped and murdered, citing their victims' differences to justify their crimes."

Of Israelis this is totally false. It is true of the Muslims, most recently demonstrated by Iraq in Kuwait.

Lost in his usual dream that he floats above Olympus, Meachum also states that "the Soviet Union's disappearance (no doubt the reason Bush had Gorbachev in Madrid) destroyed the last reason for Israel to maintain its status as the Middle East's super power."

Aside from the unexceptional Meachum monstrous exaggeration, at the very least Syria, Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia, aside from a great store of other military equipment and overwhelming numerical superiority, have rockets and planes capable of destroying Israel, two with rockets of over a thousand-mile range. And the Saudis are getting, if they do not already have, military planes with a range great enough for them to attack into Europe as far as Greece. Syria who has many SCUD rockets.

So, even if the U.S.S.R. had "disappeared," that has nothing at all to do with what Israel has to be able to defend itself against.

Big as is the Meachum mouth, all those feet he has just put in it should once again do what this has not done so often in the past: teach him that even his mouth is not big enough for him to get into it and swallow all the misinformation and one- sided propaganda he fobs off on his trusting editors and readers.

There is much more quite wrong with this column, but is any more necessary to expose him and the extent to which he goes to indulge his hatreds?

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